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Helen + I

It was about 1932 off Dundalk Ave in Graceland Park. My Father woke us up & said I have a present for you guys. We probably said what is it & he said 'guess!'. I remember we said a puppy a kitten & he finally told us. You have a little Baby Sister. I remember how happy we all were. My Mother was in bed with the baby & we wondered why she was sick. We didn't even know she was pregnant. Kids didn't know those things. And all of the children were born at home then. Probably a Mid Wife or something. My Father said she looks like a little Baby Doll. The name stuck for years. Every body called her Baby Doll. We didn't even know her name was Helen Marie. From there we moved to Nobel St & then to Leverton Ave 3414. Looking back ^{the} only thing I remember about that house as far as Helen was concerned. My Father was still working then. When all of a sudden we heard this noise on the steps from the upstairs. Helen had fallen down the steps & was unconscious on the floor. Now a day when someone is knocked out the Paramedics come out & put this big collar on you. But back then my Mother grabbed her up & a neighbor took them to City Hospital. The last thing
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I remember my Mother ~~said~~^{said} My God my baby has broken her neck. The four boys waited on the front steps for our father to come home. When we saw him coming up the front street, we all ran down to tell him Baby Doll fell down the steps & broke her neck & we think she's dead. Funny how you remember little statements like that. My father said 'Oh My God' & he started running towards City Hospital eighteen blocks away. We don't know if he got a ride or not. Any way it was after dark when the Three of them came back, & they said she was o.k. My Father had a old Pontiac in the back yard covered with canvas. Only about four people in our little block had a car. ~~And~~ I think a neighbor that took My Mother & Helen probably waited & brought them all home. My father ^{was} for the W.P.A. then. If you were on Welfare you had to work with Pick ~~ups~~ & Shovels ^{on} the Roads. Don't forget it was the great Depression & Very ^{few} people had jobs. My Father was sick & weak but he did the best he could. My Mother was sick too but a girl next door named Thelma Boer. helped her a lot. Ray was born there but that's another story. We move across the street to 3409 I don't remember much with Helen there.

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From there we moved to Mura St. The only thing with Helen there, Pep & I made a little ring Toss game like horseshoes & we gave it ^{to} Helen for a Christmas present. I'll have to talk to Pep & see if he remembers that. Little things like that stick in your mind. From there we moved to Severton Ave.

Mom, Helen & Ray slept in the front room & us four boys slept in the back room in one big bed. The next ^{thing} I remember the 'Big Black cars' took Pep & Helen away.

→ The next thing with Helen When Pep & I went to live on Homestead St when my Mother got the little apartment. It was there when I look at old Pictures that Helen must have live there. I have a picture of Ray & Helen taken on Homestead St. Ray was about five so Helen must have been about nine. From there we moved to Newington Ave off North Ave. I was working in the Shipyards on Liberty Ships. I was Seventeen. During the war the Air Raid warnings would go off. We never did get bombed bombed. I didn't know Marge, she lived on Bolton St about two Blocks away. I know it was Helen & Marge together when the Sirens went off & everybody had to clear the streets. They ran into our house & Marge was shaking. After all we didn't know if the planes
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I put my arms
around her

were coming or not! Marge & I started seeing each other. She was fifteen & I was seventeen & we are still together after Sixty Five years. Helen probably knew I would be coming home from work then I can thank her for that. Sad isn't it a little sister I hardly knew. When she was growing up I was gone for about four years in the Army. What I remember the most, she was real pretty & she could Dance. Sadley Baby Doll died fairly young.

Brother
Jim

P.S. If you see any old Black & White movies, She looked a lot like
'Susan Hayward'